

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1164

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1694

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: IVP PROGRAM

REF: STATE 131880

1. WE APPRECIATE REPORT ON LAINGEN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE, WHICH CLARIFIED TO SOME EXTENT HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH IVP PROGRAM. WE WELCOME KANAKARATNE'S EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY HIS WHOLEHEARED ENDORSEMENT OF BRINGING BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS TO UNITED STATES (POINT WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REITERATE TO SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR). WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO KANAKARATNE'S PROBLEM AND BELIEVE SOME MECHANISM SHOULD BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY CEYLONese EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IS INFORMED BY DEPARTMENT OF IMPENDING IVP VISITORS.

2. HIS REFERENCE TO DESIRE FOR MORE FORMAL PROCEDURE (PARAGRAPH TWO, REFTEL) GIVE US PAUSE, HOWEVER, AS THIS IMPLIES INFORMING GSL HERE OR OBTAINING ITS APPROVAL FOR PARTIAL GRANTEES AS WELL AS FULL GRANTEES. IN FACT, ONLY REASON, FROM OUT POINT OF VIEW, FOR OBTAINING GSL CONCURRENCE ON FULL IVP GRANTEES OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IS THAT GSL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED BEFORE GRANTEES CAN OBTAIN EXT PERMIT. FOR PARTIAL GRANTEES PICKED UP OUTSIDE OF SRI LANKA, THEY HAVE, OF COURSE, ALREADY

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RECEIVED EXIT PERMITS SO THAT MOTIVE FOR OUR

OBTAINING GSL CLEARANCE IS REMOVED.

3. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT THAT, IF WE ARE FORCED TO ADOPT SAME PROCEDURE FOR PARTIALS THAT WE HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH FOR FULL GRANTEES, IT IS LIKELY THAT FEW OR NO GRNTS WILL BE POSSIBLE. WE ARE THEREFORE MOST ANXIOUS TO AVOID GETTING INTO THIS POSITION.

4. WHEN DEPARTMENT GOES BACK TO AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE, IT MAY WISH RESPOND ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

-- ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED IT SHOULD BE UP TO INDIVIDUAL TO INFORM CEYLONSE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF HIS OR HER PALS, SYSTEM HAS APPARENTLY NOT ALWAYS WORKED OUT AND IT IS THEREFORE SYMPAHTETIC TO AMBASSADOR'S NEED TO KNOW WHEN CEYLONSE TRAVELING UNDER IV PROGRAM WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON.

-- DEPARTMENT THEREFORE AGREES TO ADVISE CEYLONSE EMBASSY ON REGULAR BASIS OF PROSPECTIVE ARRIVALS UNDER PROGRAM AS SOON AS FIRM DATES ARE KNOWN. DEPARTMENT HOPES THIS WILL FULFILL EMBASSY'S NEEDS.

-- (ONLY IF AMBASSADOR SHOULD RAISE NEED INFORM GSL OR OBTAIN ITS CLEARANCE ON PARTIAL GRANTEES) PARTIAL GRANTEES ARE ALMOST INVARIABLY ARRANGED AT LAST MINUTE, ARE NORMALLY PICKED UP OUTSIDE OF SRI LANKA, SOMETIMES EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE ARRIVED IN UNITED STATES, AND, AS RESULT, IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT SUCH PROCEDURE WITH ANY DEGREE OF EFFICIENCY. IF (AS AMBASSADOR INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH THREE REF TEL) INFORMATION IS NEEDED BECAUSE OF HIS REQUIREMENTS IN WASHINGTON, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO REASON TO OBTAIN PRIOR CONCURRENCE OR TO INFORM GSL IN COLOMBO OF PARTIAL GRANTS.

5. WE HOPE AGREEMENT TO KEEP CEYLONSE EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMED WILL SATISFY KANAKARATNE. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN EXCELLENT CANDIDATES OF IV PROGRAM THIS YEAR AND WANT VERY MUCH TO CONTINUE TO HAVE FLEXIBILITY THAT PARTIAL GRANTS HAVE GIVEN US TO OBTAIN HIGH-QUALITY PARTICIPANTS. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, COMMENT ON ACTIVITIES OF PARTICIPANTS IN EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING OR OTHER CEYLONSE TRAVELERS NOT UNDER IVP GRANTS.

6. WE INTEND CHANGE NOTHING IN PROCEDURES HERE
UNLESS APPROACHED FURTHER BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
VAN HOLLEN

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